



## Mr. Allen Durham

February 2, 1942 - January 14, 2024

Mr. Allen Durham, 81, of Peoria, Illinois transitioned to his heavenly home at 10:38 am on Sunday, January 14, 2024 at Carle Methodist Hospital.

Allen was born in Brinkley, Arkansas in 1942 to Mitchell and Exie (Ray) Durham. He graduated from Manual High School in 1961, where he earned a football scholarship to Bradley University. Allen decided to join the Marines, where he was honorably discharged with the rank of Corporal. He then worked for Keystone before beginning his 41- year career in the insurance industry. Allen worked for Nationwide Insurance before opening his own independent insurance office, Durham and Associates Insurance Agency, which was Peoria's first African- American owned independent insurance agency.

Allen met the love of his life, Virginia in 1966. Excited to start their new lives together, the two were married on April 10th, 1967 in Peoria, IL. From their union were born 4 beautiful daughters. Allen was an active member of New Mt. Sinai M.B. Church, where he served as a Deacon. He also was a Mason and a member of Amvets Peoria Post 64. Allen served in the United States Marines from 1962-1967. He earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for his heroic service in the Bay of Pigs and the Vietnam Conflict. Allen enjoyed fishing, reading, card playing, traveling and bowling. Everyone who knew him knew how much he loved to tell a funny story.

Allen leaves to cherish his precious memories his loving wife Virginia; daughters Vivian Adams, Yvette Durham, Veronica Jackson and Shaunda Thompson (Early Jr.); one sister Willie Ester Durham; eight Grandchildren: Nicole Durham, Glenn Durham-Richardson, James Adams, Chenille Thomas, Danielle Jackson, Jeffery Adams, Samuel Jackson II, and Jessica Adams; seven great grandchildren: Brielle Durham, Marshall Johnson, Devory Durham, Terrell Thomas, Elijah Durham-Richardson, Rylann Durham, Jamiah Durham-Richardson. Allen had a host of nieces, nephews, other family members and loving friends. Allen was preceded in death by three brothers: Charlie Durham, M.C. Durham, L.V. Durham, four sisters: Julene Durham, Mildred Hatchett, Nantexta Reed, Mary Agnes Lee, parents, Mitchell and Exie (Ray) Durham.

A celebration of Allen's life will be held at 11 am on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at his beloved church, New Mt. Sinai M.B., with a visitation beginning at 10 am. Pastor Joseph Cherry will officiate. Allen will be laid to rest on Soldier Hill at Historic Springdale Cemetery where US Marine Corp Military Honors will be rendered.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [SimonsMortuary.com](http://SimonsMortuary.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Historic Springdale Cemetery

3014 N. Prospect Road  
Peoria, IL 61603

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Mt. Sinai M. B. Church  
2112 W Forrest Hill Ave,  
Peoria, IL 61604

## Celebration of Life

JAN 27. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

New Mt. Sinai M. B. Church  
2112 W Forrest Hill Ave,  
Peoria, IL 61604

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Allen Durham*



**Simons Mortuary** - January 29, 2024 at 04:28 PM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Allen Durham*



**Simons Mortuary** - January 25, 2024 at 02:23 PM

VJ

*What a beautiful tribute. Thank you ❤️*

**Veronica Durham Jackson** - January 26, 2024 at 10:01 AM

SS

*Very Special video  
My deepest Condolences 🙏*

**Shondra Smith** - January 26, 2024 at 08:25 PM

VK

*May God bless & keep your family as you contend with your loss.*

**Vickie & James King** - January 29, 2024 at 12:32 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Burial at Historic Springdale Cemetery*



**Simons Mortuary** - January 29, 2024 at 04:28 PM

KW

“ *I'll always cherish the time when our families fellowshiped together at Rising Sun. Mrs. Durham, Vivian, Yvette, Veronica and Shaunda; please know you're in my thoughts and prayers.*

**Kimberly Warr** - January 28, 2024 at 06:29 AM

KC

“ *Kathy Collins lit a candle in memory of Allen Durham*



**Kathy Collins** - January 27, 2024 at 01:05 PM



“ *Mr Durham was always a strong father for his daughters and daughter’s friends. I’m remember being able to sit with him and talk for a while about business, politics, family, you name it! He was an encourager, leader, and philosopher of his own right. His legacy lives on through his beautiful children and grandchildren. May you rest in peace sir. From Queena Howard and Family*

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**Queena Howard** - January 27, 2024 at 04:35 AM

DA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Danielle** - January 27, 2024 at 04:12 AM

DA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Danielle** - January 27, 2024 at 04:11 AM

CD

“ Cassie, Emilio, Shawn and Dr. Douglas purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Mr. Allen Durham.



Cassie, Emilio, Shawn and Dr. Douglas - January 26, 2024 at 09:22 AM

CD

“ Cassie, Emilio, Shawn and Dr. Douglas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Allen Durham.

Cassie, Emilio, Shawn and Dr. Douglas - January 26, 2024 at 09:22 AM

AL

“ Annette Lucy lit a candle in memory of Allen Durham



Annette Lucy - January 25, 2024 at 07:52 PM

AF

“ Agilent Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Allen Durham.



Agilent Family - January 25, 2024 at 01:04 PM

AF

“ Agilent Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Allen Durham.

Agilent Family - January 25, 2024 at 01:04 PM

TF

“ The Reed family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Allen Durham.



The Reed family - January 24, 2024 at 12:06 PM

SA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Samuel - January 20, 2024 at 09:28 AM

EF

“ Elaine Shelley and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Allen Durham.



Elaine Shelley and Family - January 19, 2024 at 04:49 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Allen Durham.*



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January 19, 2024 at 08:23 AM



“ *Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Allen Durham*



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**Joanie Brown** - January 18, 2024 at 10:14 AM



“ *I will truly miss Uncle Allen. I loved his distinctive voice and his personality.*

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**Latrice Reed** - January 17, 2024 at 07:25 PM